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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/571/Add.2) which contains the budget for the maintenance of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for the period from 14 April to 31 December 1995 and for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996. During its consideration of the report, representatives of the Secretary-General provided the Advisory Committee with additional information.

2. In his report to the Security Council of 10 April 1995 (S/1995/279), the Secretary-General informed the Council, inter alia, that the peace process in Liberia remained at an impasse and that the overall situation had further deteriorated since his last report to the Council dated 24 February 1995 (S/1995/158). In the latter report, the Secretary-General set out a number of options on the role that UNOMIL could play in Liberia and stated, inter alia, that if the current political stalemate were to continue, the Security Council might wish to consider either withdrawal of UNOMIL or further reduction of its military component until the parties clearly demonstrated the political will necessary to reactivate the peace process. The Advisory Committee understands that the Security Council has yet to pronounce itself on the options proposed by the Secretary-General.

3. As indicated in paragraph 25 of the report of the Secretary-General (S/1995/279), "[i]t could be argued that the present political impasse and the breakdown of the cease-fire make it necessary for the Security Council to address these options now". However, in view of the fact that the proposed summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) does offer a possibility that the peace process may shortly be re-launched, the Secretary-General considered that it would be premature to withdraw UNOMIL at this stage

and recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNOMIL until 30 June 1995. The Secretary-General also informed the Security Council of his decision to appoint a Legal/Human Rights Officer to UNOMIL, given the frequency of reported human rights violations in Liberia, and of his intention to reduce the military strength of UNOMIL by about 20 observers, in view of the fact that the security situation prevented UNOMIL from carrying out part of its mandate.

4. By its resolution 985 (1995) of 13 April 1995, the Security Council decided, inter alia, to extend the mandate of UNOMIL until 30 June 1995.

5. In part IV of his report (A/49/571/Add.2, paras. 23-25), the Secretary-General deals with humanitarian assistance. The Committee notes from paragraph 25 of the report that a consolidated inter-agency appeal was launched on 3 February 1995 for Liberia, seeking to raise $65 million to cover the period from January to June 1995. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that $27.6 million was pledged as of 24 May 1995 and that humanitarian assistance is coordinated by two staff members (1 P-5 and 1 P-2) of the humanitarian division of UNOMIL, as reflected in annex III, section B, to the report. The Committee points out that the budget submission should have contained a better description of the coordination activities of UNOMIL and of the functions and responsibilities of humanitarian assistance officers. The Committee requests, therefore, that such information be provided in future budget submissions of the Secretary-General. Furthermore, budget submissions should clearly demonstrate the type of coordination that is specifically required in order to avoid possible overlapping of humanitarian assistance funded from voluntary contributions with activities financed from assessed contributions and in order to achieve an optimum use of available resources.

6. In paragraph 26 of his report (A/49/571/Add.2), the Secretary-General indicates that as at 30 April 1995 the total outstanding assessment due from Member States was $10.4 million. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that in order to provide UNOMIL with the necessary cash flow, a total of $2 million had been borrowed from the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund and that this loan remained unpaid at the time of the consideration of the report (A/49/571/Add.2).

7. In paragraphs 28 to 32 of his report (A/49/571/Add.2), the Secretary-General provides information on the trust fund for the implementation of the Cotonou agreement in Liberia. The trust fund was established by the Secretary-General to receive voluntary contributions from Member States for the deployment and maintenance needs of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) troop contingents, humanitarian assistance, elections and disarmament and demobilization. The Committee notes from paragraph 32 of the report that, as at 15 April 1995, cash contributions to the trust fund totalled $23.3 million and the authorized expenditure amounted to $17.9 million. The balance of $5.4 million includes approximately $5 million earmarked for the repatriation of certain contingents of ECOMOG and can be used only for that purpose. In this connection, the Committee points out that the report of the Secretary-General should have indicated more clearly the extent of support provided from the trust fund to ECOMOG contingents and to various activities of UNOMIL, including humanitarian assistance, elections and disarmament and demobilization.

8. Since resources of the trust fund have been virtually depleted, the Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to include in his next budget submission on UNOMIL detailed information on how support to ECOMOG contingents and to various activities of UNOMIL, including humanitarian assistance, elections and disarmament and demobilization, will be funded.

9. The Committee notes from paragraph 35 of the report (A/49/571/Add.2) that the performance report for the period from 23 October 1994 to 30 June 1995 will be presented at a later date.

10. The cost estimates for UNOMIL are estimated by the Secretary-General at $12,222,500 gross ($11,385,500 net) for the period from 14 April to 31 December 1995 and at $8,004,900 gross ($7,408,500 net) for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996, as reflected in paragraph 36 of the report. The Committee points out that the amount of $12.2 million gross includes $3.7 million gross for the period from 14 April to 30 June 1995 already authorized under the terms of General Assembly resolution 49/232 of 23 December 1994.

11. The Committee was informed that the decrease in the cost estimates for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996 is attributable mainly to the elimination of non-recurrent provisions under premises, transportation operations and supplies and services. Supplementary information thereon is presented in the annexes to the report (A/49/571/Add.2).

12. The cost estimates for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1995 provide for a total of 70 military observers, 54 international civilian staff, 7 United Nations volunteers, 70 locally recruited staff, an additional 40 local staff assigned to the disarmament and demobilization programme, and for other non-staffing requirements. The Advisory Committee points out that the proposed 54 international staff include 7 posts (1 ASG to accommodate the Chief Military Officer, 1 P-5 for the Humanitarian Coordinator, 2 P-4 posts for Political Affairs Officers and 3 General Service posts) which were unblocked effective 20 March 1995, in view of the increased workload of the political component of UNOMIL. The Secretary-General had informed the Advisory Committee of the foregoing in his letter dated 20 March 1995. Three additional posts (1 P-4 for a Legal/Human Rights Officer, 1 P-4 for an Information Officer and 1 General Service post) are now proposed to be unblocked. The description of functional responsibilities of the P-4 posts of a Legal/Human Rights Officer and an Information Officer is contained in annex III to the report (A/49/571/Add.2).

13. The Advisory Committee takes note of the reductions in cost parameters used in estimating the requirements for the period from 14 April 1995 to 30 June 1996, as compared with cost parameters used in the previous submission (see A/49/571/Add.2, annex II). The Committee welcomes these reductions.

14. With regard to the programme of disarmament and demobilization, the Advisory Committee points out that the additional 40 local staff assigned to the programme, referred to in paragraph 36 of the report, are not included in the staffing table of UNOMIL, as authorized by the General Assembly. The Committee was informed that out of these 40 local staff, 39 were on board. Furthermore, the Committee was informed, upon inquiry, that functional responsibilities of

these 40 local staff include assisting in conducting interviews, processing of identification cards, and other activities.

15. Provisions of $129,600 and $90,200 under assistance for disarmament and demobilization for the periods from 14 April to 31 December 1995 and from 1 January to 30 June 1996, accordingly, are made for one local and one international consultant. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the international consultant works as programme coordinator and the local consultant works as deputy programme coordinator. The functional responsibilities of both consultants are contained in the annex to the present report. The analysis by the Advisory Committee of these functional responsibilities led it to the conclusion that they, and especially those of the international consultant, may not require special expertise which could not be found among United Nations staff, internationally or locally recruited; moreover, the estimated cost for the international consultant seems excessive (see para. 16 below). The Committee also points out that the consultants are proposed to be engaged during the entire budget period of 14.5 months, without any interruption, and that their entitlements are comparable to those of UNOMIL staff, including monthly subsistence allowance and hazardous pay for the international consultant.

16. As stated in paragraph 8 above, the resources of the trust fund for the implementation of the Cotonou agreement in Liberia, which was established for financing, inter alia, the programme of disarmament and demobilization, have been virtually depleted. Furthermore, the Committee was informed of the rather slow pace of the programme. In this connection, and on the understanding that the programme of disarmament and demobilization should be financed, in principle, from voluntary contributions, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General review the requirements for consultants and for additional local staff for the programme of disarmament and demobilization with a view to ensuring that support to the programme from the assessed contributions to UNOMIL properly reflects the development of the programme on the basis of extrabudgetary financing.

17. The Advisory Committee recommends that an amount of $8.5 million gross be appropriated for the period from 14 January to 30 June 1995, inclusive of the amount of $4,781,400 gross for the period from 14 January to 13 April 1995 and the amount of $3,695,200 gross for the period from 14 April to 30 June 1995 already authorized under the terms of General Assembly resolution 49/232 for the period beyond 13 January 1995. In addition, the Committee recommends that the amount of $395,553 gross ($436,290 net) in respect of the period from 14 April to 30 June 1995 be set off against future assessment on Member States.

18. With regard to the period from 1 July to 31 December 1995, the Advisory Committee recommends appropriation of $8,527,300 gross and that it be assessed on Member States, under the terms of section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, at the rate of $1,421,200 gross per month, subject to the extension of the mandate of UNOMIL by the Security Council beyond 30 June 1995.

19. As stated in paragraph 2 above, the Committee understands that the Security Council has yet to pronounce itself on the options outlined in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council (S/1995/158). The Committee points

out that this may require a revision of budget estimates for the maintenance of UNOMIL. Furthermore, the Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will take into account the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 15 above, which should also affect the cost estimates. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General submit, under the terms of section I, paragraph 4, of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A, his budget proposal for UNOMIL for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996 to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

ANNEX

Functional responsibilities of international and local consultants

Functional title and job description of the international consultant for the disarmament and demobilization programme

Functional title: Coordinator, Demobilization Programme

Job description: The Programme Coordinator will have the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Direct the demobilization programme of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL);

(b) Conceptualize the programme as prescribed by the ninth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOMIL (S/1995/158), which provides guidelines for the programme;

(c) Harmonize the programme with disarmament and reintegration phases and related institutions, namely, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), United Nations military observers, the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations agencies, international and local non-governmental organizations;

(d) Liaise with the Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG) and ensure that the interests of the Liberian people are reflected in the programme;

(e) Take stock of the demobilization and reintegration case-studies conducted elsewhere by the United Nations;

(f) Chair the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Task Force constituted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

(g) Represent UNOMIL in the resettlement and reintegration meetings conducted by LNTG and United Nations agencies.

Functional title and job description of the local consultant for the disarmament and demobilization programme

Functional title: Deputy Programme Coordinator

Job description: The Deputy Programme Coordinator will have the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Assist in the administrative coordination of the reintegration programmes;

(b) Liaise with all non-governmental organizations on the reintegration policies of Government;

(c) Liaise with ECOMOG as it relates to the demobilization programme;

(d) Serve as the focal point for all agencies involved in the demobilization process;

(e) Prepare the action plan for the establishment, organization, manning, equipment and opening of demobilization centres;

(f) Through the centre coordinator (United Nations Volunteers), ensure that demobilization centres operate according to standard operating procedures;

(g) Produce outline of standard operating procedures for the running of demobilization centres;

(h) Establish a system of reports and returns that will ensure that the coordination body is kept aware of programme progress;

(i) Act as the acting programme manager in the absence of the programme manager.